

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

5 placing a sample in contact with a device, wherein at least a portion of the device comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte and wherein binding between the immobilized binding partner and a suspected analyte causes formation of a detectable signal and detection of the signal indicates the presence of a suspected analyte in the sample;

10 separating at least part of the portion from at least part of the device; and

analyzing the portion to provide information regarding the suspected analyte.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the device is a lateral flow device.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information identifies the suspected analyte.

20 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information describes one or more characteristics of the suspected analyte.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

25 placing the portion in conditions effective to cause the quantity of the suspected analyte to increase; and

30 separating at least part of the suspected analyte from the portion after increase in the quantity of the suspected analyte.

35 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the analyte is an organism and analyzing the portion comprises placing the portion on or in a selective growth medium in which the analyte will proliferate if present.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises storing the device without further processing for up to five days after placing the sample in contact with the device and before separating the portion from at least part of the device.

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8. A method for isolating or concentrating a substance comprising the method of Claims 1.

9. A kit for performing the method of Claims 1, comprising a device
10 wherein at least a portion of the device comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte.

10. A device wherein at least a portion of the device comprises an
15 immobilized binding partner for an analyte, wherein the device comprises structural features that facilitate separation of the portion or a part of the portion from at least part of the device.